

NCBW includes more than 7,000 members from 62 chapters representing 23 states and the District of Columbia.

The 20th Anniversary of NCBW celebrates and commemorates the great progress that African-American women have made in the United States over the past 30 years. This progress was made possible through the hard work, dedication, and compassion of the founding members of NCBW, as well as many others, who understood and continue to recognize the adversity that minority women face each and every day on the road to realizing economic and political empowerment.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their important contributions to NCBW—NJ:—the late Wynona Lipman; Barbara L. James; Bettye Ingram; the Honorable Janet E. Haynes; Dolores Buchanan; Lynn M. Stradford; Karen Lee Stradford; Carol A. Collins; Cherre E. Ogden; Karyn Stewart; Gessie Barnes; Brenda J. Murphy, Henrietta D. Ward, Marion Rhim Fowler; Katherine Daugherty Brown; Natalie Cole; Jeri Warrick Crisman; Redenia C. Gilliam-Mosee; Coretta Scott King; Constance Woodruff; and Larrie West Stalks.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Coalition of 100 Black Women—New Jersey for all it has done to empower African-American women.

#### IN HONOR OF GINA PENNESTRI

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Ms. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Gina Pennestri, a fighter without equal who recently passed away in San Francisco. Gina was known and loved in San Francisco for her sharp mind and soft heart. She was forceful, dedicated, and absolutely committed to the constituents and elected officials she served.

Gina was always fighting for a cause. After her graduation from George Washington University, she worked to secure the right to vote for the residents of Washington, D.C. Soon after, she joined the War effort as Chief of Employee Relations for all civilian employees stationed from England to North Africa during World War II. She then helped coordinate the Berlin Airlift, working to ensure that humanitarian assistance was delivered to those who needed it.

By 1951, Gina had settled in San Francisco and started a family. Raising her son, Marc, Gina became involved with political issues and in the community. She fought a planned highway through Golden Gate Park, she worked in the conservation movement to protect areas from development, and she volunteered in public schools and libraries to help educate San Francisco's children. Along with many San Franciscans, she joined the civil rights movement and opposed the Vietnam War.

In 1967, she became an aide to then-Assemblyman, and current State Senate President Pro Tempore, John Burton. She soon rose to be the Chief of Staff of his San Francisco office and remained in the position when Mr. Burton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. When Mr. Burton retired from the U.S. House, Gina worked on the

campaign for his successor, BARBARA BOXER, and then became her chief of staff. When Congresswoman BOXER became Senator BOXER, she again turned to Gina to run her San Francisco office.

In her career with State Senator Burton and Senator BOXER, Gina became widely respected for her ability, her tenacity, and her fidelity to her principles. Utterly dedicated to helping those in need, she was a fearsome opponent and a trusted friend. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her and by everyone for whom she fought.

My thoughts and prayers are with her son and daughter-in-law, Marc and Nancy Zimmerman, and her grandchildren, Laura and Daniel, to whom she was devoted.

#### FEDERAL LANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has 264 million acres that it manages for the federal government. None of this land is national park or national forest land. The BLM has identified three million acres that it would like to sell, because it is not environmentally significant, surrounded by private land, difficult to manage, or isolated.

Today, I have introduced the Federal Lands Improvement Act which will allow the sale of this land, with proceeds to go; one-third to the counties where the land is located for schools and other needs; one-third to the national debt; and one-third back to the BLM for environmental restoration projects on its remaining land.

As I have already stated, this bill would not sell any national parks or wilderness areas. It only proposed to sell lands that have already been identified for disposal by the BLM.

Currently, the federal government owns 30 percent of all the land in the United States. This is roughly 650 million acres. In comparison, the State of Tennessee is only 26 million acres total.

It only makes sense that the federal government consolidate its holdings so that it can better manage those areas which are truly environmentally sensitive.

I hope my Colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation so that we can take a step forward in protecting our federal lands.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

#### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local citizens from the 9th District of Texas who were chosen during Black History Month for their work. While the dedication of African-American leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights

for all Texans. Last month I asked members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for my "Unsung Heroes" award that gives special recognition to those unsung heroes, willing workers, and individuals who are so much a part of our nation's rich history. Recipients were chosen because they embodied a giving and sharing spirit, and had made a contribution to our nation.

These individuals have not only talked the talk, but they have walked the walk. They have worked long and hard for equal rights in their churches, schools, and in their communities. While their efforts may not make the headlines every day, their pioneering struggle for equality and justice is nevertheless vital to our entire region. This region of Southeast Texas is not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating these community leaders for their support of bringing justice and equality to Southeast Texas. It is leaders like these men and women that continue to be a source of pride not only during Black History Month, but all year long. The winners of this years "Unsung Heroes" award are:

Mrs. Ursula Arceneaux, John R. Bolt, Joanne Broussard, Octavia Brown-Reed, Arthur Charles III, Dalton Domingue, John T. Dooley, Tudy Duriso, Jacqueline Duriso, Willie Mae Elmore, Dr. Anthony Gambrah, Mrs. Doris Jean Gill, Ms. Lillie T. Green, Charles Hall, Rachel Hebert, Miss Dorothy M. Ingram, Beverly Jackson-Brown, Chester Johnson, Mrs. Priscilla Jones, Barbara Pernell Joseph, Marilyn Keedy-Wall, Emerson A. Kincaide, Mrs. Beverly King, Sandra LaDay, Igalious Mills, Rev. Brenda Payne, L.G. Slider, Jr., Rev. Oveal Walker III, Ella Walker, Gethrel Hall Williams, and Norris Batiste Jr.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the "Unsung Heroes" award are dedicated and hardworking individuals who have done so much for their neighbors and for this nation as a whole. Today, I stand to recognize their spirit and to say that I am honored to be their Representative.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF EMMETT O. HUTTO

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and profound sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of Emmett O. Hutto of Baytown, Texas. After living a remarkably accomplished life that spanned 82 years, Mr. Hutto passed away on March 14, 2001. He was born in Bertram, Texas on August 29, 1918 to Elbert and Clara Hutto.

Mr. Hutto graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and then attended Lee College and the University of Texas before joining the Army Air Force during World War II. As a bomber pilot, he flew 38 missions over Nazi targets in North Africa and Europe. Mr. Hutto was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the air medal, and an oak leaf cluster, along with a citation for bravery in action.

Emmett Hutto had many interests. He was a successful businessman, having owned and operated a restaurant, a hotel and a real estate business. He was also active in city politics, serving on the Baytown City Council from